

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WA OHDC 7154

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: NYA

TAGS: EFIN, IN

SUBJ: FURTHER INDIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF SENATE VOTE ON PL-480

REF: NEW DELHI 11649

BEGIN SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS FURTHER INDIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF U.S. SENATE VOTE ON PL-480. WITH EXCEPTION OF KAMATH ARTICLE NOTED BELOW, MOST STORIES ARE STRAIGHTFORWARD. TIMES OF INDIA CARRIES PERCEPTIVE COMMENTARY BY DELHI EDITOR GIRILAL JACT.

END SUMMARY.

1. SEVERAL DELHI NEWSIIPERS IN OCTOBER 2 AND 3 EDITIO A CARRIED ADDITIONAL MORE OR LESS STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON ON U.S. SENATE VOTE ON PL-480.

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2. EXCEPTION WAS DISPATCH BY M.V. KAMATH, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF TIMES OF INDIA WHO INDULGED IN TEMPER TANTRUM OVER SENATE VOTE. ENTITLED "ANGRY SENATORS ATTACK INDIA ON PL-480 ISSUE", ARTICLE STATES THAT "A POWERFUL ANTI-INDIAN OUTBURST" IS LIKELY IN CONGRESS BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION HAS "OUTWITTED" THE U.S. BY PROVIDING U.S. GRAIN TO INDIA AND BANGLADESH. CONGRESS' "ANTI-INDIAN SENTIMENT" HAS BEEN "FANNED" BY GJPORTS OF MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS ON CHILE AND HER INVITATION TO CUBAN PRIME MINISTER CASTRO TO STOP IN DELHI.

3. ONLY EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL PAGE COMMENT THUS FAR WAS PERCEPTIVE ARTICLE BY GIRILAL JAIN WHO CAUTIONED AGAINST ALLOWING ADVERSE SENATE VOTE TO INTERFERE WITH SLOW BUT CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. JAIN SAYS THAT WHILE IT IS A PITY THAT THE RUPEE SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN "FRUSTRATED" BY THE SENATE IT WOULD BE A GREATER PITY IF THIS WERE ALLOWED TO GIVE RISE TO MUTUAL RECRIMINATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NEW DELHI. JAIN OPINES THAT SENATE MOVE IS NOT PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF MRS. GANDHI'S STATEMENT ON CHILE AND THAT THE CONGRESS "WOULD HAVE BLOCKED THE AGREEMENT EVEN IF THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT SAID A WORD ON CHILE..." ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT "WHILE THERE CANNOT BE MUCH DOUBT THAT A SETTLEMENT OF THE PL-480 DEBTS WOULD HAVE REMOVED ONE MAJOR IRRITANT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS, IT WOULD BE IDLE FOR ANYONE TO CLAIM THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CANNOT COME SIGNIFICANTLY CLOSER TO EACH OTHER IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT ON THIS QUESTION PROVIDED THEY HAVE THE CAPACITY AND THE WILL TO TACKLE OTHER DIFFICULTIES".

4. THE KAMATH ARTICLE ASIDE, DELHI PRESS REPORTS PLAY DOWN IMPORTANCE OF PRIME MINISTTE GANDHI'S REMARKS ON CHILE AS CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO SENATE VOTE.

5. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRY SHORT STORY ON AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH KAUL ON SEPTEMBER 28 INDICATING THAT REPORTING OF A SNUB BY KAUL TO MOYNIHAN WAS "MISCHIEVOUS".

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